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Grady Oversight Committee and Public Hospital Integrity Act proposed **Sen. Shafer introduces two Grady reform bills**

ATLANTA – Together with over 30 bipartisan cosponsors, Sen. David Shafer (R-Duluth) today introduced legislation creating a Grady Oversight Committee and imposing conflict-of-interest requirements on directors of public hospitals.

“The goal of these first two bills is to implement basic governance reforms and create a system of regular legislative oversight,” Shafer said. “Other bills are being drafted now to address funding, staffing and competitiveness issues.”

Senate Bill 353, the *Public Hospital Integrity Act*, prohibits individuals from serving in a governing capacity of a public hospital like Grady if they have financial ties to the hospital or any major vendor of the hospital.

“This legislation will help ensure that the Grady board's first loyalty is to Grady as an institution, not those who do business with Grady,” Shafer said.

Senate Resolution 722 creates the Grady Oversight Committee. Shafer said the language of the resolution was drawn from legislation creating the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Overview Committee (MARTOC), which oversees MARTA. A similar resolution passed the Senate in 1999 when Grady was last bailed out by the state, but failed in the House.

“Those who run Grady have fought legislative oversight whenever it has been proposed,” Shafer said. “But when they inevitably get into financial trouble, they sing the same old lament of legislative neglect.”

Shafer said the two bills introduced today are “only first steps” and that he soon will be making a more comprehensive proposal that would address potential sources of new funding for Grady and outline strategies for helping Grady be as competitive and self-sustaining as possible.

Senate Majority Leader Tommie Williams (R-Vidalia), Senate President Pro Tem Eric Johnson (R-Savannah) and Senate Majority Caucus Chairman Dan Moody (R-Johns Creek) were among the cosponsors of both bills.

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Senator David Shafer is Chairman of the Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee. He represents the 48th Senate District which includes parts of Fulton and Gwinnett Counties. He may be reached at 404-656-0048 or via email at David.Shafer@senate.ga.gov.